

Gage County EMS Advisory Committee
Beatrice, Nebraska
November 13, 2008
8:00 a.m.

Minutes

Present:

Don Harmon
Rex Adams
Jane Witthoff
Mark Meints
Larry Stanosheck
Brian Daake
Alan Fetty
Dan Hawkins

Absent:

Gary Williams
Ron Miller
Dee Fritch
Dennis Byars
Dawn Hill

Staff Resources:

Robyn Henderson
Richard Mettler

Guests:

Matt Bauman

Call Meeting to Order

Don Harmon called the meeting to order

Approve Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes; motion approved.

Physician Medical Director

Don Harmon will meet with Adams Rescue on November 17. Don is waiting to hear back from Ron Miller to set date for meeting with Clatonia.

Wymore and Beatrice have signed on with Dr. Rice. Brian met with Dr. Rice and was very encouraged. State was very helpful with getting Dr. Rice signed on with county departments.

Dr. Studley is moving from ER to work as a hospitalist. A new nurse director has been hired for ER Department. Dr. Mike Havekost will be working in ER. Hospital is experiencing high staff turn over, which results in a lack of consistency of care. This affects patient care.

Comments from Subcommittees and Others

No comments or discussion

Ambulance District (AD)

The group briefly reviewed the Committee's work from October meeting.

Discussion ensued about "why" we are forming the AD. This is not clear for everybody and has caused confusion with departments and public. Some members indicated an interest in moving forward with what can be done now with Dr. Rice on Board, and work out the details of the AD later as structural and organizational requirements become clearer.

Questions remain whether the AD would be under the county lid. While there have been differing thoughts on this, the growing consensus is that it would fall under the lid.

Questions for legal advice

1. Do ambulance districts and hospital districts fall under the county lid for taxing/funding purposes?
2. How can funding for EMS be better equalized across the state? What are options?
3. If we create multiple taxing ambulance districts, who has the taxing authority, and whose lid is affected?
4. Will multiple districts require multiple boards?
5. Are there other examples of county entities using coordinated purchasing?
(Mark said most of the rescue squads he knows about go through their hospital)
6. How do other districts/counties fund ALS and ALS readiness? Units get funded through property tax, county funding, fees. Basic question – how do we get ALS service to all parts of the county?

Mission for EMS in Gage County:

To provide quality, timely care for all residents of Gage County, regardless of where they live within the county, with equitable funding.

Next steps

Check out billing options – hospital (Mark) and city (Alan and Brian)

Have Dr. Rice here

Have attorney here

Need to have answer to Q: 3

Need to determine ALS cost per capita so we know how much it actually costs to provide full care (Lincoln figures to provide ALS care per ambulance \$300,000-\$400,000.).

Finance committee should meet to work through some of this

Suggestion was made to merge finance committee with structure committee as the issues are inter-related.

Questions for Structure Committee

1. Call volume and location
2. Alternative ways to provide services
3. Look at Wingrove report
4. Review department finance reports

Get any questions to me by Friday, Nov 21

With no other business, meeting adjourned.

Next meetings:

December 11, 2008

January 8, 2009

February 12, 2009

March 12, 2009

April 9, 2009